

Summer Reading Project

6th Grade

The following list contains grade level appropriate books that have to do with our 6th grade theme of “*change*.” Over this summer you must choose one book (you make choose a second book for extra credit) and complete the activities on the following pages. A synopsis of each book is provided on the next page.

Flipped – Wendelin Van Draanan

When You Reach Me – Rebecca Stead

Holes – Louis Sachar

Maniac Magee – Jerry Spinelli

The Wednesday Wars – Gary Schmidt

The Cruisers – A Star is Born – Walter Dean Myers

All summer reading projects must be completed by **Friday, September 2**. Students will present their work to the class with a 5-7 minute presentation throughout the first weeks of school. Students will also take a short comprehension quiz on the book they chose to read.

Have a wonderful summer, and Happy Reading!

Flipped – Wendelin Van Draanen

Flipped is a romance told in two voices. The first time Juli Baker saw Bryce Loski, she flipped. The first time Bryce saw Juli, he ran. That's pretty much the pattern for these two neighbors until the eighth grade, when, just as Juli is realizing Bryce isn't as wonderful as she thought, Bryce is starting to see that Juli is pretty amazing. How these two teens manage to see beyond the surface of things and come together makes for a comic and poignant romance. (Lexile – 720)

When You Reach Me – Rebecca Stead

By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, like the local grocery store, and they know whom to avoid, like the crazy guy on the corner.

But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a new kid for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen. And then Miranda finds a mysterious note scrawled on a tiny slip of paper:

I am coming to save your friend's life, and my own.

I must ask two favors. First, you must write me a letter.

The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows all about her, including things that have not even happened yet. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she's too late. (Lexile – 750)

Holes – Louis Sachar

Stanley's family is cursed with bad luck. Unfairly sentenced to months of detention at Camp Green Lake, he and his campmates are forced by the warden to dig holes in order to build character. What they don't know is that they are digging holes in order to search for a lost treasure hidden somewhere in the camp. (Lexile - 660)

The Cruisers – A Star is Born – Walter Dean Myers

The Cruiser, the alternative newspaper published by Zander and his crew of middle-school misfits, is alive and well. And now there's plenty to report on when LaShonda, one of the Cruisers, steps into the spotlight with her costume designs for an upcoming play. LaShonda's designs get rave reviews, but she soon learns that show business is filled with challenges and choices. LaShonda is forced to consider what's more important ? fame or loyalty to her autistic brother. Whether she gets a standing ovation or the curtain pulled down on her is up to LaShonda. And she can't help but wonder if the Cruisers have got her back and will be there for her whether she's center stage or waiting in the wings. (Lexile - 810)

The Wednesday Wars – Gary Schmidt

A wonderfully witty and compelling novel about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967-68 school year. Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? How can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation--the Big M--in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself. (Lexile - 990)

Maniac Magee – Jerry Spinelli

He wasn't born with the name Maniac Magee. He came into this world named Jeffrey Lionel Magee, but when his parents died and his life changed, so did his name. And Maniac Magee became a legend. Even today kids talk about how fast he could run; about how he hit an inside-the-park "frog" homer; how no knot, no matter how snarled, would stay that way once he began to untie it. But the thing Maniac Magee is best known for is what he did for the kids from the East Side and those from the West Side. (Lexile - 850)

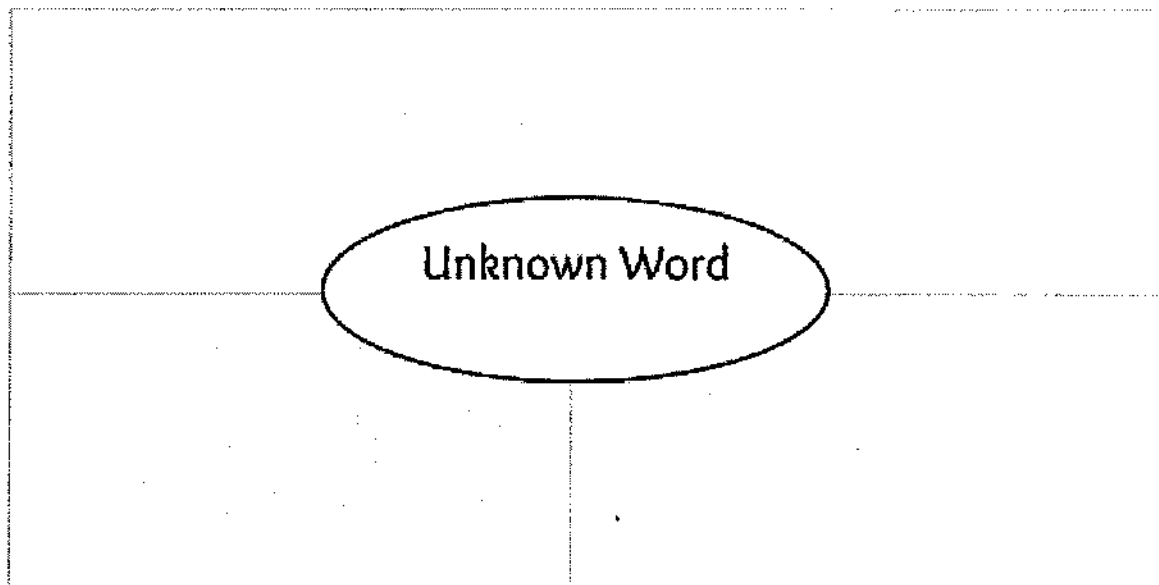
Reading Assignment (Part I) – Vocabulary Spotlight

Directions: As you read, identify ten unknown vocabulary words and create a booklet or poster that depicts a full understanding of the word's meaning. (If you are choosing to read a second book for extra credit, please complete at least eight words for that book as well.)

For each word, make sure you:

- Spell the word correctly in neat writing
- Write down the sentence from the book in which the word was used
- Write the definition of the book as you found from a dictionary
- Create a list of synonyms (words that have the same meaning) and antonyms (words that have opposite meaning)
- Draw a picture that somehow represents the word's meaning
- Put the word in your own sentence.

An example template is given below. You may use this, but you do not have to as long as you include all the parts listed.



Directions: Choose TWO of the assignments to complete in the table below.

Movie Trailer Create a movie trailer for the book. You should use actors and props to help your audience understand the characters and plot of the book. The purpose of a movie trailer is to encourage people to go see the movie, so make the book look good! The trailer should be 2-4 minutes. (Please bring a typed script to accompany the video. The video should be on a flash drive, cd or uploaded to youtube.)	Artifact Collection Create a box that contains 8-10 artifacts that represent the novel. (The artifacts can be real or homemade. For example, you could include a baseball in the box or you can construct a 2D or 3D baseball out of construction paper.) Write a paragraph (5-8 sentences) to accompany each artifact. The paragraph should explain why you selected the artifact and how it is significant to the character and plot of the novel.
An Interview with a Character Write a <u>magazine article</u> in which you interview the main character. Ask them relevant and thought-provoking questions. Use textual evidence and inference skills to create the answers. The interview should be at least two pages typed and double spaced.	Scrapbook Create a scrapbook for the journey the protagonist takes in the novel. Your scrapbook should be at least 8-10 pages that clearly demonstrates you have an understanding of character, plot and setting. Include relevant pictures, decorations and captions.
Character Analysis Choose at least three characters from the novel. Creatively depict these characters (you can draw, mold, paint, computer graphics, etc) and complete a two paragraph character analysis of each. The first paragraph should summarize their role in the novel, and the second should explain what they learned or how they changed by the end of the novel.	Character Journal Write a journal from a character's point of view. This journal should be written as if the character was keeping a journal throughout different parts of the story. Use textual evidence and inference skills to write as the character and reflect on what has happened to them at different points in the novel. Your journal should have at least five entries of two paragraphs each.

If students are choosing to read a second book, they may complete one assignment for each book, as long as they are DIFFERENT assignments.

Part III – Optional

Extra Credit Opportunity (5 points maximum): Create an advertisement poster that we can hang in the school that will encourage other students to read the book. It should be attractive, easy to read and persuasive.